

Alpha Omega Alpha

(Honor Medical Society)

Founded by WILLIAM W. ROOT

HISTORY AND CONSTITUTION

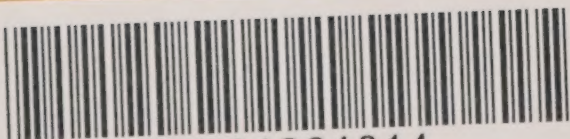


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ALPHA



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1947

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Alpha Omega Alpha

Chapter of

the University of

the State of New York

at Ithaca, New York



Αξίως ὠφελεῖν τοὺς ἀλγοῦντας

Presidents

WILLIAM W. ROOT, (Founder) 1902-1904

WINFIELD S. HALL, 1904-1913

RUSSELL BURTON-OPITZ, 1913-1918

JOHN L. HEFFRON, 1918-1924

WALTER L. BIERRING, 1924—

Board of Directors

(Includes Officers)

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VICTOR E. JOHNSON

Chicago

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Toronto

JAMES J. WARING

Denver

Chapters

(In Order of Establishment)

ALPHA OF ILLINOIS.....	1902	UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
BETA OF ILLINOIS.....		UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
GAMMA OF ILLINOIS.....	1903	NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
ALPHA OF OHIO.....		WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
ALPHA OF PENNSYLVANIA.....		JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE
BETA OF PENNSYLVANIA.....		UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
ALPHA OF MISSOURI.....	1905	WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
ALPHA OF MASSACHUSETTS.....	1906	HARVARD UNIVERSITY
ALPHA OF CALIFORNIA.....		UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
ALPHA OF MARYLAND.....		JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
ALPHA OF ONTARIO.....		UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
ALPHA OF NEW YORK.....	1907	COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
ALPHA OF MICHIGAN.....		UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
ALPHA OF MINNESOTA.....	1908	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
BETA OF NEW YORK.....	1910	CORNELL UNIVERSITY
GAMMA OF NEW YORK.....	1911	SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
ALPHA OF QUEBEC.....		McGILL UNIVERSITY
ALPHA OF NEBRASKA.....	1914	UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
ALPHA OF LOUISIANA.....		TULANE UNIVERSITY
BETA OF OHIO.....	1916	UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI
GAMMA OF PENNSYLVANIA.....		UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
ALPHA OF INDIANA.....		INDIANA UNIVERSITY
ALPHA OF VIRGINIA.....	1919	UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
ALPHA OF IOWA.....	1920	STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
ALPHA OF TEXAS.....		UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
ALPHA OF CONNECTICUT.....		YALE UNIVERSITY
ALPHA OF TENNESSEE.....	1923	VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
DELTA OF NEW YORK.....		NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
ALPHA OF OREGON.....		UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
BETA OF MISSOURI.....	1924	ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY
EPSILON OF NEW YORK.....		UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO
ALPHA OF KENTUCKY.....	1926	UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
ALPHA OF COLORADO.....		UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
ALPHA OF WISCONSIN.....		UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
ALPHA OF GEORGIA.....		UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
BETA OF CALIFORNIA.....	1929	STANFORD UNIVERSITY
ZETA OF NEW YORK.....		UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER
ALPHA OF KANSAS.....	1930	UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
ALPHA OF NORTH CAROLINA.....	1931	DUKE UNIVERSITY
GAMMA OF OHIO.....	1933	OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
DELTA OF PENNSYLVANIA.....	1934	WOMAN'S MEDICAL COLLEGE OF PENNSYLVANIA
BETA OF GEORGIA.....	1939	EMORY UNIVERSITY
BETA OF MASSACHUSETTS.....	1940	TUFTS COLLEGE
BETA OF VIRGINIA.....		MEDICAL COLLEGE OF VIRGINIA
BETA OF TENNESSEE.....	1941	UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
BETA OF ONTARIO.....	1942	UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
BETA OF MICHIGAN.....		WAYNE UNIVERSITY

ALPHA OMEGA ALPHA

THIS is a non-secret, College Medical Honor Society, membership to which is based entirely upon SCHOLARSHIP, moral qualifications being satisfactory. It was organized at the College of Medicine of the University of Illinois, Chicago, August 25, 1902, and is the *only order of its kind in medical schools on this continent*. Its definite mission is to encourage personal honesty and the spirit of medical research.

It is *not* a social organization and the custom is growing of devoting the chapter meetings to the presentation of clinical cases and scientific papers with discussion.

Public addresses, by distinguished physicians, are given each year under chapter auspices and many of the addresses have proved to be notable contributions to medical literature.

Its methods for the advancement of medical education ally it with such organizations as the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council on Education of the American Medical Association, and those who have studied closely these methods and the ideals of the Society believe that its remarkable growth and influence in so brief a period mark but the beginning of a unique movement for better things in the profession.

It will be seen from the roll of chapters, every one active, that nearly all of the institutions of the highest rank in Canada and the United States are represented, and it is only to those attaining such rank that charters will be granted. *Every medical school in America which has to date been approved by our Committee on Extension is now included*. Educators and others interested may be furnished with further information and with copies of the Constitution upon application to G. Meredith Brill, Slaterville Springs, N.Y.

January 1947.

The Pharos
of
Alpha Omega Alpha
(Honor Medical Society)

G. Meredith Brill Managing Editor
Committee on Extension Editorial Board

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HISTORICAL NOTE

College fraternities or, as earlier called, Greek letter societies, are peculiarly an American institution. In the colleges of the colonial era debating and literary societies arose primarily as an opportunity for training in public speaking, an outstanding attribute for clergymen, lawyers, and men in public life. Such societies had names of classical origin, either Greek or Latin. Some of them had mottoes, usually in Greek, expressing their ideals. A few were in part secret.

In December 1776 at the College of William and Mary at Williamsburg, Virginia, the second oldest college in the present United States, was organized a Society which adopted no name, but a Greek motto meaning Philosophy, the Guide of Life. It adopted secrecy, a ritual, an oath of fidelity, and other features. These features may have been due to the fact that debate of the public questions of the day by patriotic college students might prove offensive to the representatives of the King, who had their headquarters in the town of Williamsburg, or they may have been in youthful emulation of the Free and Accepted Masons, the colonial headquarters of which were in the same town.

The Society took its name from its motto. In the original records this motto was written out, and then all but the initials of the three words were erased. This added to the charm of secrecy—not even to divulge its motto. The initials of the Greek words were ΦΒΚ and the organization was known as the Phi Beta Kappa Society. Although the parent society soon became inactive because of the Revolutionary War, between 1780 and 1787 branches were established at Yale, Harvard, and Dartmouth Colleges, in 1817 at Union College, in 1825 at Bowdoin College, and in 1830 at Brown University.

The social-political, anti-masonic protest extending from 1825 to 1835 had two influences on college societies. One was a stimulus to the establishment of a new type of secret student organization designated by initials of Greek mottoes and therefore called Greek letter societies. Soon they were called fraternities and their branches were designated as chapters in imitation of Masonry. Phi Beta Kappa did not use either the word fraternity or the word chapter at this time. The first of these college fraternities was at Union College.

The anti-masonic agitation was violent in New England. It extended to all secret organizations and singled out Phi Beta Kappa as a moral detriment to college youth because of its secrecy. Public opinion forced college officials to demand that this society "give up its secrets." The students protested, but finally divulged their secrets which proved to be harmless and trivial.

In some of the colleges, the faculty, many of whom had been members as students, took over the control of Phi Beta Kappa which thus became an active

faculty-student literary organization instead of the former student society. These faculty members controlled the election of new members, and they confined their selections to students who excelled in their college studies. Such leading students at graduation were accorded "honors" in the subjects in which they excelled and were known as honor students. They had shown in their college studies evidence of scholarship.

Soon membership in Phi Beta Kappa was essentially a designation of having been an honor student, and the society came to be called an honor society, and at times a scholarship society.

With the establishment of engineering and technological schools in the United States there arose a place for a second type of honor society. Phi Beta Kappa was essentially philosophical and literary as there was little natural science in American colleges prior to 1860. Hence it was not an appropriate organization for a school of technology. As a result there was established at Cornell University in 1886 an honor society named Sigma Xi, membership in which designated accomplishment in the physical or natural sciences.

To have established an honor society in medical schools in 1886 or to have extended Sigma Xi to medical schools at that date would have been inappropriate, for medical schools of that time were devoted almost entirely to teaching the art of medicine and little of medical science appeared in the schools.

No year can be set for the beginning of the revolution in American medical education, but approximately it was in the latter part of the decade of 1860-70. The causes are too many and complicated to discuss here. The results were: first, an increase in length of session from sixteen to twenty weeks, later to twenty-four, thirty, and thirty-two, or more; next an increase in the number of sessions of attendance required for graduation from two to three, and later to four.

About 1885 came the graded curriculum. This inaugurated a period of twenty-five years of progress which included definite entrance requirements, at first low, but progressively increasing. Laboratory teaching came in, and soon after salaried, full-time teachers, followed by the beginning of a research program.

By 1900 the character of medical education had so greatly changed that the medical sciences constituted a considerable part of the curriculum in the more progressive schools, and a few schools had adopted higher entrance requirements.

All this developed beginnings of scholarship among medical students and the time had come when definite recognition of accomplishment by medical students was appropriate.

It was to meet this need that in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Chicago, the Medical Department of the University of Illinois, in the summer of 1902, a small group of students organized a medical honor society. Following the familiar method of designation by Greek initial letters it was called Alpha Omega Alpha.

The most active student in this episode was William W. Root, then entering his junior year in that college. His interest in this organization did not cease with graduation, but rather increased, and in the thirty years from the founding of the society until his death in 1932, Dr. Root was constantly its fostering parent. These many years of devoted service are properly recognized and commemorated by the national officers in designation of Dr. Root as founder of the society.

In the later months of 1902 a second chapter was organized at Rush Medical College, then affiliated with the University of Chicago, located in a neighboring city block. Early in 1903 a chapter was organized at the Medical School of Northwestern University, sponsored by Dr. Winfield S. Hall, dean of the school. The organization was still local and confined to the city of Chicago when, in 1903, a representative of the three chapters, the late Dr. Burchard H. Roark of Rush, made a trip east which resulted in the establishment of chapters at Western Reserve University, at Jefferson Medical College, and at the University of Pennsylvania.

In 1905 one chapter was founded, in 1906 four, in 1907 two, in 1908 one, and in 1910 one, so that at the end of 1910 there were fifteen chapters. Meanwhile there was great progress in medical education. The Council of Education of the American Medical Association had been organized, all of the medical schools had been inspected and publicly designated in one of three grades. The culmination of this period of revolution was the appearance in 1910 of the Survey of Medical Education by the Carnegie Foundation.

In this revolutionary period the founding of Alpha Omega Alpha and its progress deserves to be considered one of the less than a score of major influences which marked the great improvement of medical education and of the medical profession in the United States.

The increase in number of chapters was slow in the early years of Alpha Omega Alpha because of its high ideals. It declined to establish chapters except in the better schools where equipment, personnel, facilities, and research were sufficient to stimulate scholarship.

The period from 1910 to the present has been a period of evolution in medical education, less dramatic than the revolution of the previous twenty-five years, but more effective in the stabilization and consolidation of the earlier advance. In it Alpha Omega Alpha has enjoyed a consistent growth, ever mindful of its ideals. It has been a stimulus to student effort during the years in the medical school and has implanted in the habits of many of its members a conception of service and improvement. Many of these men have become leaders in the various phases of medical education, research, and practice.

The ideals of Alpha Omega Alpha have also experienced an evolution. At its origin, following the policy of Phi Beta Kappa, election to Alpha Omega Alpha was primarily evidence of success in the medical school, and was based almost entirely upon grades attained in courses. Gradually it has come to be recognized that scholarship involves more than the mere ability to do well the

tasks set and done under the intimate oversight of teachers. Scholarship involves initiative, independence, and the ability and will to carry on scholarly activities without oversight. Therefore the conception has come that election to this society is not only a recognition of accomplishment as a student, but also an insignia of both promise and expectancy of leadership in some phase of medicine after graduation. It is changing from an honor society to a scholarship society. The individual who has demonstrated as a student that he has greater ability than the average is remiss if he does not develop that greater ability and render service better than the average in the profession. If one does not expect to continue his endeavors for excellence after graduation, logically he should decline election.

Alpha Omega Alpha has already rendered service to the progress of American medicine, and in the future years should, and probably will, increase this service, if, in the selection of members, not only accomplishment as a student is recognized, but also careful consideration is given to promise of future leadership based upon all those personal and intellectual characteristics that experience has shown will usually lead to high attainment.

FREDERICK C. WAITE

CONSTITUTION*

GENERAL

ARTICLE I

NAME

SECTION 1. This organization shall be called Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, the three Greek letters being the initials of the essential words in the following motto:

Αξις ὠφελεῖν τοὺς ἀλγούντας

“To be worthy to serve the suffering.”

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP—OBJECT—NATURE

SECTION 1. This Society shall be composed of (1) regular members consisting of medical men and women who as undergraduates have given promise of becoming leaders in their profession or who later have attained such leadership, and (2) honorary members consisting of physicians who have attained distinction in any worthy line of human endeavor, and of persons, whether physicians or not, who have gained unusual recognition in fields related to medicine.

SECTION 2. The aims of the Society shall be the promotion of scholarship and research in medical schools, the encouragement of a high standard of character and conduct among medical students and graduates, and the recognition of high attainment in medical science of practice and related fields.

SECTION 3.—*The spirit of the Society is set forth in its motto and in a modern interpretation of the Hippocratic Oath. It is the duty of members to promote its ideals, to foster the scientific and philosophical features of the medical profession, to look beyond self to the welfare of the profession and of the public, to cultivate social mindedness as well as an individualistic attitude toward responsibilities, to show respect for colleagues and especially for elders and teachers, to foster research, and in all ways to strive to enrich and ennoble the profession of medicine and advance it in public opinion. It is equally a duty to avoid what is unworthy, including the commercial spirit and all practices injurious to the welfare of patients, the public or the profession.*

*In this constitution matter in Roman type is declarative and obligatory, matter in italic type is explanatory and advisory. General principles are considered of greater importance in ordering the life of the Society than detailed rules. These principles as set forth in the advisory sections should receive careful attention of chapter officers and members.

ARTICLE III ORGANIZATION

SECTION I. The administration of the Society shall be vested in:—

(a) A Biennial Council, a Board of Directors elected by said Biennial Council and General Officers elected by the Board of Directors.

(b) The constituent chapters of the Society.

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP AND GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

SECTION I. *The service and influence of the Society depend upon the wisdom with which members are selected. In the exercise of this function each chapter and especially chapter officers have a grave responsibility, and should not select a full quota from any class unless enough candidates fully worthy of the honor are available.*

The choice of members necessarily rests largely upon their conduct and record as medical students. Such choice cannot judiciously be made until the student has completed a large part of his medical course.

Into the choice enter judgments of many qualities, only part of which are capable of quantitative determination. The resultant of all these judgments must indicate in the candidate unequivocal promise of a high standard of future service, before membership is offered.

The most prominent requisite of membership is high scholarship in a broad sense. Scholarship is more than a record of high average grades and facility in memorizing information. It connotes continuous industry, effectiveness in method of work, facility in correlating facts and an intellectual grasp that permits application of information to new problems.

As aspects of and indispensable to true scholarship come open-mindedness, individuality, originality, demonstration of a studious attitude independent of teacher requirements, and promise of intellectual growth. These are the qualities that must sustain the individual in his professional career. They are, moreover, harder to judge, and their evaluation will demand the greatest care on the part of those responsible for the selection of members.

Equal to these qualities comes moral character in its broadest sense, including unselfishness, appreciation of obligation, reliability and honesty in all the affairs of life. Any established instance of scholastic dishonesty should disqualify a candidate.

The estimation of students by teachers expressed as marks in the official record is the most definite quantitative factor available as to scholarship, but in itself alone it is not enough to warrant selection. This single factor should be considered only to predicate probable worthiness and establish eligibility. To those whose average official grade record is relatively high should be applied a judgment as to possession of the other qualities above set forth. So far as possible this judgment should be the composite opinion of mature minds in order to eliminate either favorable or unfavorable prejudice. If a candidate has a high record of grades and yet lacks in any considerable degree the other essential qualities, he should be eliminated from election.

SECTION 2. Students who have fully completed two years of a four year curriculum (exclusive of the intern year), which leads to the M.D. or M.B. degree, in a school where a chapter exists, and who are in the upper one-half of their class as determined by scholastic grades, and who fulfill all above requirements in accord with foregoing principles, shall be eligible so far as time is concerned for election as regular members.

In schools having a curriculum longer than four years this section shall be interpreted as permitting election of students after the first two years of the course.

SECTION 3. The total number of student members elected from any class shall not exceed one-sixth of the total number expected to graduate in that class.

SECTION 4. One-third or less of this quota may be elected in the third year of the medical course. The remainder may be elected during the fourth year, or thereafter. In cases of deferred elections, records of hospital service, graduate study or practice shall be considered as giving additional evidence upon which to reach a wise judgment.

SECTION 5. Chapters shall establish routine procedures by which members of the Society, who are on the teaching staff, shall intimately co-operate in the judgment of the qualities requisite for election of candidates. No candidate subject to adverse criticism, supported by citation and explanation from a member of the faculty, shall be eligible for ballot until such criticism has been fully considered by the chapter. Further, at each election the counselor or chapter president shall give a general admonition to all members voting, that each ballot must express a judicial conclusion as to the qualities possessed by the candidate in accord with Section 1 of this article, and must be free from prejudice from any source whatever.

SECTION 6. No student shall be excluded on the ground of sex, race, creed, or color, nor shall unpopularity among his fellows or teachers be a bar to his election.

SECTION 7. Each candidate shall be balloted upon separately and openly, and one negative vote shall be sufficient to exclude; further, in every such case a member so voting shall state his reasons in full before the other members. Should this member withdraw his objection, the candidate may be balloted upon at a subsequent meeting.

SECTION 8. No student who has taken part of his medical course elsewhere shall be eligible to membership unless he shall have been in attendance at the college where the electing chapter is located, for one year of the medical course and only after adequate investigation of the student's record, both scholastic and general, in the medical school from which he came and approval by the chapter, if such exists.

SECTION 9. No candidate shall be enrolled as a member until after the candidate's initiation fees of the local chapter and general Society have been paid and the candidate has been regularly initiated.

The office of initiation may, on request of the electing chapter, be performed by another chapter, that chapter willing, the membership still remaining in the electing chapter.

SECTION 10. Should a student member of one chapter leave the institution in which he received his election and become a student in another institution where a chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha is located, he may, on presentation of his certificate of membership and by a majority vote of the latter chapter, be received as a regular member thereof. Other than student members may be transferred in like manner.

SECTION 11. Graduate medical students in universities where chapters of this Society exist shall be eligible for membership under a reasonable interpretation of foregoing statement of principles and of foregoing section relative to choice of members.

SECTION 12. At the time of establishment of a new chapter, physicians previously graduated from the college and who conform to the requirements demanded of undergraduates, may be elected to regular membership from classes which antedate the granting of the charter, but not more than one-tenth of the original classes may be chosen.

SECTION 13. A graduate of a college in which a chapter exists, who was not elected as an undergraduate but who, after ten years or more following graduation, is considered on the basis of achievement to be qualified, may without regard to quota and by the usual vote, be elected to regular membership of his college chapter.

SECTION 14. A chapter may nominate to the Board of Directors, or the Board itself may nominate for honorary membership, physicians or others who have gained wide recognition for original research or in administrative positions in fields allied to medicine, or physicians who have gained unusual distinction in any field contributing to human welfare. Election of honorary members shall be by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors.

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

ARTICLE V

GENERAL CONTROL

SECTION 1. The general management of the Society shall be vested in a Board of Directors and the general officers elected by them.

SECTION 2. The general officers shall be the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary and the Treasurer. They shall be elected by the Board of Directors and may be elected from their number. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be vested in one person.

SECTION 3. The President shall be elected to serve for a term of four years or until his successor is duly elected and installed, the next term beginning Sep-

tember 1, 1936. He shall be the executive head of the Society and shall, with the approval of the Board of Directors, administer all business of the Society not otherwise provided for by the constitution.

SECTION 4. The Vice-President shall in like manner be elected to serve four years or until his successor is duly elected and installed, the next term beginning September 1, 1936. It shall be his duty to co-operate with the President and to serve as presiding officer in his absence. In the event of the death or resignation of the President, the Vice-President shall serve in his place until a new President shall have been elected.

SECTION 5. The Secretary shall be elected to serve for an indeterminate period. The Secretary shall perform the usual duties devolving upon such officer, keeping a complete record of all members, both regular and honorary, with their addresses and such other data as the Board of Directors may require and shall promptly transfer to the Treasurer all money received.

SECTION 6. The Treasurer shall be elected for an indeterminate period and shall perform the usual duties of such officer. At the beginning of each fiscal year (September), the Treasurer shall present to the officers and to each of the constituent chapters a written report of the financial standing of the Society, including a detailed statement of all money received and expended during the preceding year. He shall be bonded to such sum as the Board of Directors may require.

SECTION 7. The Board of Directors shall consist of seven members, two to be chosen at each Biennial Council, except that three shall be chosen when the term of the seventh member expires, to serve for a period of six years, each Director to serve until his successor is duly elected and installed. Vacancies in the Board caused by death and resignation shall be filled for the unexpired term by the Board of Directors or by the Biennial Council.

SECTION 8. The Board of Directors shall meet on call of the President or any four members of the Board at such place as he or they may decide. It may conduct business by correspondence, and votes so taken shall be binding. A record shall be kept of its action and report thereon through the President shall be made to the Biennial Council.

SECTION 9. The Board of Directors shall be empowered to remove officers for cause and to fill vacancies for the unexpired term.

SECTION 10. A Biennial Council shall convene every two years beginning with 1934. The voting members of this council shall consist of the Directors, one delegate from each chapter duly elected by said chapter and furnished with the proper credentials, and the living national ex-presidents as delegates-at-large. A number of delegates equal to one-third of the active chapters shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION 11. The time and place of holding the Biennial Council shall be determined by the Directors.

SECTION 12. The Biennial Council shall elect Directors as heretofore provided. It shall consider recommendations presented by the President, Board of Directors or any constituent chapter, and take such action for the good of the Society as may be indicated, including the power to remove directors for cause.

CHAPTER ORGANIZATION, POWERS AND DUTIES

ARTICLE VI

CHAPTER OFFICERS

SECTION 1. The officers of each chapter shall be: counselor, president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer.

SECTION 2. The counselor, who must be a member of the faculty and of the Society, shall be elected by the chapter to serve for three years. He shall be responsible to the faculty and to the general officers for the condition of the chapter and, by maintaining with these bodies an intimate relationship, assure a continuation of the high ideals for which the Society stands and active participation therein on the part of the chapter.

SECTION 3. The other chapter officers shall be elected by the chapter every year and shall perform the duties usually devolving upon such officers.

SECTION 4. The secretary shall keep the names of initiates properly classified, so that the records will furnish the full name, date of initiation and other required data concerning each member. Before initiation full names of new members with year of initiation and of graduation and other required data shall be forwarded to the General Secretary.

SECTION 5. As soon as chapter officers are chosen, their names and addresses, both school and home, must be sent at once by the chapter secretary to the General Secretary.

ARTICLE VII

CHAPTER DELEGATES TO BIENNIAL COUNCIL

SECTION 1. Any member of a chapter may serve as its delegate or alternate delegate. The alternate shall be recognized in case the delegate is absent. Such delegate and alternate shall be elected at a meeting of the chapter preceding the meeting of the Biennial Council; but in case this is not done, the chapter executive committee is empowered to elect and certify to such representatives.

ARTICLE VIII

CHAPTER MEETINGS

SECTION 1. At least two meetings shall be held each school year at times and places decided upon by the chapter president in consultation with the counselor.

SECTION 2. A meeting for the election of members should be held in the fall. A meeting for the election of chapter officers, for the election of further members and for the transaction of other business should be held in the spring. Other

meetings for any purposes may be called at the discretion of the chapter president in consultation with the counselor. Chapters are urged to seek other avenues of usefulness to their respective schools and to the Society.

An annual Alpha Omega Alpha address by a distinguished member of the medical profession or other appropriate speaker should be sponsored by each chapter. Such address may appropriately be given at or following an annual dinner.

SECTION 3. All regular members of the chapter, whether students or graduates, are entitled to vote at chapter meetings. Chapters shall establish by by-law the number of regular members constituting a quorum for the transaction of chapter business and election of members.

This Society in its inception was an undergraduate organization. It is believed that every effort should be made to arouse and maintain undergraduate interest. To this end, as early as possible election of members is recommended. Chapters are urged to engage in activities in which undergraduate members may take part.

ARTICLE IX

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SECTION 1. The executive committee of a chapter shall consist of the counselor and the other chapter officers.

SECTION 2. The executive committee shall be responsible for arranging the program of the meetings, for providing a suitable speaker to deliver the annual Alpha Omega Alpha address, for the nomination, after examining their scholarship records and moral fitness and with the advice of faculty members, of candidates for election, and for the discharge of necessary business in the intervals between chapter meetings, provided reports of interim actions be submitted at the next succeeding meeting.

In the nomination of candidates the executive committee shall consult other members of the chapter; especially they shall consult with student members from the class from which elections are to be made, if any such have previously been elected.

OTHER PROVISIONS

ARTICLE X

NEW CHAPTERS

SECTION 1. Charters may be granted to suitable groups meeting the Society's qualifications in medical schools of high standing. An application, signed by a suitable number of such students, not greater than that provided by Article IV, Section 3, together with members of the faculty, who are not already members of Alpha Omega Alpha shall be sent to the Committee on Extension and Policy who shall investigate the merits of the same. Upon receipt of favorable report from this committee and unanimous approval of same by the Board of Directors, the President shall submit the application and recommendation to constituent

chapters. If four-fifths of the chapters vote in approval of an application, the proposed charter shall be granted, provided that after six months, chapters which fail to vote shall be counted in favor of granting such charter.

ARTICLE XI

SUSPENSION AND WITHDRAWAL OF CHAPTERS

SECTION 1. Any chapter may be suspended by order of the President on vote of the Board of Directors. During such suspension the chapter shall not elect or initiate new members.

SECTION 2. The procedure for the withdrawal of a charter shall include (a) an investigation convincing to the Board of Directors that such action is desirable and a three-fourth affirmative vote of the Board to that effect, (b) submission of the findings and recommendations of the Board to the chapters by the President, (c) two-thirds affirmative vote of the chapters, (d) formal declaration by the President of withdrawal of the charter.

ARTICLE XII

INSIGNIA

SECTION 1. The badge of this Society shall be in the form of a key to be worn as a watch charm or pin and shall be made of gold, and designed after the Manubrium Sterni. The obverse shall be invariable, having engraved thereon the three Greek letters AOA and the date of organization of the Society. On the reverse may be placed the name of the school, the name of the member owning the key, and the date of his election.

SECTION 2. The certificate of membership in this Society shall be of such design and wording as the Board of Directors may approve. It shall bear the seal of the Society and the signatures of the President and Secretary.

SECTION 3. The seal of this Society shall consist of a circular wreath of laurel, on the inside of which near the wreath shall be placed the motto in Greek. Inside of this the words, Alpha Omega Alpha, and below this, "Organized 1902."

ARTICLE XIII

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

SECTION 1. Any regular member may be suspended or expelled by his chapter in accord with the following procedure. (a) A special meeting shall be called at which formal written charges against such member shall be presented. (b) A copy of these charges shall be mailed to the President of the Society and his approval of further action secured. (c) Not less than two weeks after the first meeting and after not less than one week's notice to all members of such chapter, a second meeting shall be held. A two-thirds vote of those present shall be necessary to suspend or expel the member. (d) The suspended or expelled member may appeal to the Board of Directors, whose vote shall be final.

SECTION 2. A suspended member may be reinstated by two-thirds vote of his chapter at a meeting called for such purpose.

SECTION 3. Any member may be suspended or expelled by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XIV

BY-LAWS: GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Committees

1. There shall be a standing Committee on Extension and Policy appointed by the President and composed of such number as he may direct. This committee shall upon direction by the President investigate all applicant bodies and institutions and make recommendations thereon to the President.

2. The President shall appoint such other committees, temporary or standing, as may from time to time be required.

Membership Fee

The membership fee to the general Society shall be fifteen dollars, the payment of which shall be made to the General Secretary and shall entitle the member to a standard badge and a certificate of membership.

Order of Business, Biennial Council

1. Roll Call.
2. Reading of Minutes.
3. Report of the President.
4. Report of the Secretary.
5. Report of the Treasurer.
6. New business.

Form of Permit for Organizing New Chapters

The form for the granting of charters shall be as follows:

Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, by virtue of the authority granted to it by the State of Illinois, herewith grants to.....
the power to establish a chapter of this Society at.....
subject to the Constitution governing said Society.

In token of these presents are herewith affixed the signature of the President and the corporate seal of the Society.

Ritual

The ritual of the Society shall be considered in the nature of a by-law and subject to the same rule as regards amendment.

Amendment to By-Laws

Proposals for the amendment of the by-laws shall be submitted by the President to the chapters of the Society. A majority vote in favor shall be necessary to adopt.

THE OATH OF HIPPOCRATES

The following oath was taken by the Greek medical student upon entrance to his chosen profession. Candidates for membership in our order are asked to subscribe to the spirit of this ancient pledge:

I swear by Apollo, the physician, and Aesculapius, and Health, and All-heal, and all the gods and goddesses, that, according to my ability and judgment, I will keep this oath and stipulation: to reckon him who taught me this art equally dear to me as my parents, to share my substance with him and relieve his necessities if required; to regard his offspring as on the same footing with my own brothers, and to teach them this art if they should wish to learn it, without fee or stipulation, and that by precept, lecture and every other mode of instruction, I will impart a knowledge of the art to my own sons and to those of my teachers, and to disciples bound by a stipulation and oath, according to the law of medicine, but to none others. I will follow that method of treatment which, according to my ability and judgment, I consider for the benefit of my patients and abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous. I will give no deadly medicine to anyone if asked, nor suggest any such counsel; furthermore, I will not give to a woman any instrument to produce abortion. With purity and with holiness I will pass my life and practice my art. I will not cut a person who is suffering with a stone, but will leave this to be done by practitioners of this work. Into whatever houses I enter I will go into them for the benefit of the sick and will abstain from every voluntary act of mischief and corruption; and further from the seduction of females or males, bond or free. Whatever, in connection with my professional practice, or not in connection with it, I may see or hear in the lives of men which ought not to be spoken abroad, I will not divulge, as reckoning that all such should be kept secret. While I continue to keep this oath unviolated, may it be granted to me to enjoy life and the practice of the art, respected by all men at all times; but should I trespass and violate this oath, may the reverse be my lot.

